

**WASHINGTON STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
ANIMAL HEALTH PROGRAM
OPERATIONAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE REGARDING HIGHLY
CONTAGIOUS OR FOREIGN ANIMAL DISEASES**

ANNEX 2

**EMERGENCY PLAN FOR LIVESTOCK GROUPS, ORGANIZATIONS AND
COLLATERAL BUSINESSES**

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1. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to identify procedures livestock groups, livestock organizations and collateral businesses should implement to prevent, control and eradicate foreign animal diseases (FAD) if they occur in Washington or surrounding states. Collateral businesses for the livestock industry can be defined as businesses that support and complement livestock operations, such as feed mills, feed stores, hay farmers, trucking, pharmaceutical companies, veterinarians, sale barn operators, etc.

2. Preventing Foreign Animal Diseases

- a. Livestock organizations, industry groups, and collateral businesses depend on the livestock industry for existence. It is in the best interest of these groups to be aware of any threat that affects that industry. One of those threats is that of a FAD outbreak. Foot and Mouth Disease (FMD) is a FAD threat that is highly likely because of its growing prevalence in the world and the recent devastating epidemic in England. Organizations should relay information about the disease to its members and constituents. In order to stay current on FAD as they occur in the world, it is recommended livestock organizations and groups, and collateral businesses visit the USDA Web site frequently. It can be accessed at www.aphis.usda.gov.
- b. Livestock organizations and groups must not only be aware of disease threats, but support state and federal efforts in preventing and controlling a disease outbreak. Disease information and regulatory recommendations should be published in newsletters or informational bulletins to educate livestock owners. In an effort to

- educate all livestock owners and not just members of the group, it is recommended organizations and collateral businesses team up to sponsor seminars or work with local Extension offices to develop educational programs on prevention and control of FAD, such as FMD.
- c. It is recommended livestock organizations and groups develop a committee or workgroup dedicated to researching and developing FAD information and educational programs noted above.
 - d. If legislation is proposed to address FAD or any other livestock disease, interested groups or their committees should actively participate in the development, consideration and, if enacted, the implementation of the legislation.
 - e. Industry groups and organizations should develop their own plan of action so that if a FAD is found in Washington or surrounding states, their response will be acceptable and beneficial to its constituents and the livestock industry as a whole. Again it is recommended that organizations assign committees or workgroups to study different scenarios and develop alternative plans that outlines the organizations responsibilities and actions.
 - f. Collateral businesses should support and comply with livestock owners/managers efforts to prevent the introduction of FAD into their facilities. Many livestock operations have initiated biosecurity requirements. These requirements may include visitor restrictions and traffic control. An example may be a sign-in requirement to track or log all visitors and their purpose. Biosecurity may also involve a closed gate at the entrance to control traffic in and out of the farm. To determine each farm's biosecurity program and how it affects your business, it is advised that the farm owner/manager be contacted to discuss his or her requirements. Although these efforts may be inconvenient, it is recommended that you support and adhere to the farm's requirements. Your business depends on their business and FAD has devastated many family-owned or corporate-owned livestock operations. A striking example is the result of the FMD outbreak in England in 2001.
 - g. Sale barn operators and livestock dealers should specifically be aware of any FAD threat, especially FMD. A sale barn in England contributed significantly to the dissemination of FMD throughout England during the 2001 outbreak. Sale barn operators should educate their personnel of the obvious symptoms of FMD in livestock. The typical symptoms associated with FMD are vesicles (blisters) followed by erosions in the mouth or on the feet, resulting in slobbering or lameness of the animal. If such symptoms become evident and/or seen in livestock being unloaded, the sale barn veterinarian or state/federal veterinarians listed in paragraph 5 should be called immediately. If FMD is suspected, no additional animals should be accepted and no animals should be allowed to leave the premises.

- h. Livestock dealers have a responsibility to be aware of the symptoms of FMD and report suspected cases to the state or federal veterinarians listed in paragraph 5 of this plan. Once unusual signs of the disease are noticed, under no circumstances should dealers transport or resell such animals. If animals they purchase subsequently develop FMD symptoms, under penalty of the law in Chapter 16.36 RCW, the animals should be held in one location and their condition reported. These animals must not be sold. Use the disinfectants listed in paragraph 6 to wash and disinfect contaminated personnel, equipment, and vehicles.

3. Recommended Biosecurity Measures for Farm or Ranch Visits

Biological security measures are becoming standard in many agricultural sectors. These controls, meant to minimize the risk of disease introduction and spread, can vary greatly according to operation, and type of visit.

Minimum Biosecurity Measures

- Avoid livestock areas, pens, barns, etc., unless necessary to complete the goal of the visit.
- Park vehicles on paved or hard surface areas, away from production sites on the farm, to avoid contact with dirt, mud or manure.
- Wash hands with soap and water or an antibacterial gel before entering and after leaving the premises to avoid transmitting disease agents from person to person.

Biosecurity Levels

Ensure the appropriate biosecurity levels listed below are used.

Level 1 - Visits to farms or ranches that entail office or home visits only. No contact with livestock or their housing (including pet horses or work dogs)

- Use the minimum measures outlined above

Level 2 - Visits to farms or ranches where minimal contact with livestock or their housing (barns, pens, hutches, etc) is unavoidable to attain the goal of the visit, i.e. property appraisals, tours of production facilities or dairy farm inspections. Contact constitutes walking through animal housing or pastures, but there is **no** contact with animals.

- Apply minimum biosecurity measures **plus**
- Immediately put on clean rubber boots or new plastic disposable boots upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfect any equipment used with a brush and approved EPA disinfectant solution.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water as directed by the label. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of disinfectant solution according to the label. Unused disinfectant solution should not be discarded on the ground.

- If wearing plastic boots, place them in a plastic bag that should be left on the premises for the owner/producer to dispose of, or place in a designated 'dirty' area of the vehicle.

Level 3 - Visits to farms or ranches where there will be close contact with livestock. Examples are walking through narrowly confined pens, lots where animals are within reach and actually handling/inspecting animals.

- Pre-plan the needed supplies and clothing for daily visits. Use clean clothes for each premises.
- Designate a 'dirty ' area in the vehicle for clothing and equipment that has been used on the premises.
- Park the vehicle on paved or hard surface area away from production facilities.
- Put on clean coveralls and rubber boots immediately upon exiting the vehicle.
- After returning to the vehicle, clean and disinfectant all equipment used (including eyewear) and place all disposable supplies in a plastic bag to leave on the premises for disposal or place in a plastic bag and store in the 'dirty' vehicle space. Dispose of the bag later where livestock contact is not possible.
- Clean rubber boots with an approved EPA disinfectant diluted with water. Scrub the bottoms of the boots with a brush to remove all dirt or debris. Dispose of the disinfectant according to the label. Unused Disinfectant should not be discarded on the ground.
- Remove coveralls so that they are inside out and place disposable coveralls in the plastic garbage bag.
- Place the clean equipment and boots in a designated 'clean' area of the vehicle.
- If the vehicle gets contaminated with manure or mud, clean the underside of the vehicle, tires and wheel wells at the nearest pressure wash station.
- At the end of the day, dispose of all 'dirty' plastic bags in a manner that prevents exposure to other livestock. Launder all cloth coveralls. Personal hygiene should include shampooing hair and cleaning under fingernails.

4. FAD Suspected or Diagnosed in Washington or Surrounding States

- a. After a FAD outbreak occurs in Washington, livestock industry groups or organizations should execute their plan to assist livestock owners, regulators and emergency groups dedicated to controlling and eradicating the FAD.
- b. Support the efforts of the State Veterinarian by assigning representatives to the state Emergency Operations Center (EOC) to advise and be aware of efforts at the state level to eradicate the disease. Depending on the extent of the eradication process, and length of time the EOC is operational, livestock representatives may be on telephone standby.

- c. Collateral businesses must be aware that when a FAD, such as FMD, occurs on a farm, movement on and off the farm is prohibited and access to the area is restricted. In emergency situations where the welfare of the people and animals is involved, exceptions to entry are made with certain provisions and precautionary procedures. When an outbreak has occurred elsewhere in the vicinity, biosecurity restrictions on clean farms may require the inconvenience of cleaning and disinfecting vehicles, personnel footwear and other requirements. These controls will be established and monitored by state and federal regulators.
- d. If a FAD, especially FMD, is diagnosed in Washington, the movement and sale of livestock would be significantly reduced, if not completely prohibited. All collateral businesses would be affected, especially sale barns. Since livestock dealers income comes from reselling and moving livestock, it is especially important that they adhere to state and federal laws governing livestock movement during a FMD outbreak.

5. Disinfectants Recommended by USDA/APHIS (Revised 3/16/2001)

- a. Household bleach (5.25% Sodium Hypochlorite) -- To make a 3% solution, mix 2 gallons of bleach with 3 gallons of water.
NOTE: Before using any disinfectant, first ensure manure and built up organic material are removed with soap and water on boots or with a pressurized spray washer on equipment and vehicles.
- b. Acetic acid (4-5%) -- Household vinegar is 4% acetic acid and can be used without mixing.
- c. Soda Ash (Sodium Carbonate) -- To mix a 4% solution, add 1 pound to 3 gallons of water. NOTE: It is mildly caustic and will dull painted surfaces.
- d. Lye (Sodium Hydroxide) -- To make a 2% solution, mix 1/3 cup lye pellets with 1 gallon water. NOTE: It is highly caustic and will cause equipment corrosion. Personal protective clothing, such as rubber aprons, rubber gloves and safety glasses must be worn. Mix by adding the lye to the water. Do NOT add water to the lye.
- e. Virkon-S (Potassium Peroxymonosulfate and Sodium Chloride) -- Follow label instructions.

6. State and Federal Veterinarians

Immediately report any unusual disease signs or increased mortality. These could be the first signs of a FAD. Call your local veterinarian first. At a sale barn, notify the sale barn veterinarian first. If you have questions or need other assistance, call one of the following:

WSDA, Animal Health Program, Olympia	(360) 902-1878
Dr. Jeff Howlett - Northwest WA	(360) 966-3091
Dr. Dick Vetter - Southwest WA	(360) 245-3473
Dr. Lee Williams - Central WA	(509) 765-3922
Dr. Peter Tran - Southeast WA	(509) 786-2712
USDA Veterinary Services, Olympia	(360) 753-9430
Dr. Rolf Westly - Eastern WA	(509) 257-2953
Dr. Don Dixon - Northeast WA	(509) 476-2635